***First and Center***
Pastor's Blog
January 7, 2020

One hardly knows where to start. Australia is on fire. War between the US and Iran and its affiliates in the region seems imminent. Puerto Rico, still not recovered from hurricanes, has a 6.0 earthquake. All through December, multiple Anti-Semitic attacks happened in this country. And we were told that despite courts saying they cannot do this, ICE, which seems to be accountable to no one, is still separating children from parents at our southern border.

But start we must. Each of us. In whatever way we can: writing letters, protesting at marches, sending checks, voting, talking to neighbors and friends, volunteering. Pick something this year and give yourself to the mission of Christ, which was healing, lifting up the oppressed, generosity, seeking and speaking truth. Pick something that stirs your heart and find some way(s) to be part of what is called in Hebrew "Tikkun olam," or in English, "Repair of the world."

While it is tempting to just sit in hopelessness and despair that anything can ever make a difference in a world hell-bent on destruction, as people of faith, we hold fast to God, who never gave up on us and holds hope for us when we cannot see the way. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

Many years ago, as African Americans in this country suffered during the Jim Crow era, Langston Hughes wrote these lines:

"Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die,
life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly."

Indeed. Hold fast, and live into whatever dream of a loving place you hold.

~ Rev. Shelly Stackhouse
Transitional Minister